

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/593,800

Examiner

Patrick J Connolly

Applicant(s)

TANIGUCHI ET AL.

Art Unit

2877

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

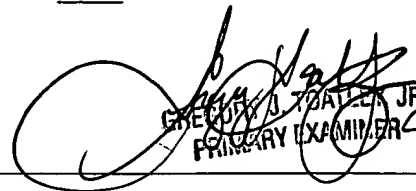
1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 27 October 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4-8 and 35-48.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 15 June 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


GREGORY J. BATTLER JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER 2877

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 4-8 and 35-48 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claim 1, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a stage device including: a first measurement system which measures a first of a plurality of stages in a certain movement plane; and a second measurement system which measures an amount of positional deviation of each of the plurality of stages from a predetermined reference position; wherein a measurement value obtained with the first measurement system is corrected based on the measurement result of the second measurement system, in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 1.

As to claim 35, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a scanning exposure apparatus including: a first movable stage in a certain movement plane; a second movable stage in the plane independent of the first stage; and a control system which corrects measurement results of a first and second measurement system on the basis of the results of said measurement systems, in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 35.

As to claim 43, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a stage device including: a first movable stage having a first reflective member and first reference mark; a second movable stage having a second reflective member and a second reference mark; and a controller that corrects an output of an interferometer system in accordance with a detection result of an optical sensor

Art Unit: 2877

when the interferometer system detects switching between the position of the first movable stage and the position of the second movable stage, in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 43.

As to claim 48, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious, a scanning exposure apparatus including: a first movable stage disposed in a certain movement plane, the first movable stage holding a first substrate on a first holding surface and having a first reflective member on a first side surface of the first movable stage which is perpendicular to the first holding surface; a second movable stage disposed in the certain movement plane so as to be movable independently from the first movable stage, the second movable stage holding a second substrate on a second holding surface and having a second reflective member on a second side surface of the second movable stage which is perpendicular to the second holding surface; a first measurement system which measures within a first measurement range a position of the first and second movable stages, the first measurement system being capable of emitting a measurement beam to each of the first and second reflective members; a second measurement system which measures positions of the first and second movable stages within a second measurement range partially overlapping the first measurement range; and a control system which corrects measurement results of the first and second measurement systems on the basis of the measurement results of the first and second measurement systems, in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 48.

Art Unit: 2877

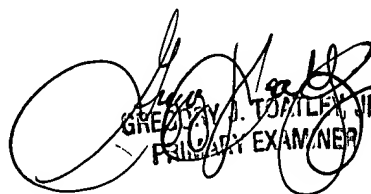
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick J Connolly whose telephone number is 571.272.2412. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 am - 7:00 pm Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory J Toatley, Jr. can be reached on 571.272.2800 ext. 77. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

pjcPJT
11.16.2004


GREGORY J. TOATLEY, JR.
PATENT EXAMINER
SIDE 2877